In first grade, students develop their understanding of basic concepts and ideas from civics, economics, geography and history. The context for social studies learning in first grade is the family and the ways they choose to live and work together. To develop students’ understanding of the basic social studies concepts, students are asked to think about families nearby and those far away.

Washington State Social Studies Unit Outlines—First Grade

Established Goals for First Grade Social Studies:

- Families in Our Community
- Families in Other Places
Families in Our Community

This unit will focus on:
• How families change over time
• Why families live where they do
• What the roles and responsibilities families have
• How families meet their needs and wants
• How families in our community support themselves

By the end of the unit students will know:
• That when individuals and families make choices about meeting their needs and wants, something is gained and something is given up
• Why families make decisions to move

At the end of the unit, students will be able to:
• Understand and create family timelines to show events in a sequential manner
• Understand how knowledge of family history can be used to make current choices

Core Vocabulary for this Unit:

bank  family life  park
business  farm  past
climate  heroism  territory
education  local history
family history  museum

Washington State Grade Level Expectations (GLEs):
2.1.1
3.2.3
4.1.1
4.4.1

Core Materials for this Unit:

bank  family life  park
business  farm  past
climate  heroism  territory
education  local history
family history  museum

Student’s knowledge will be assessed using the following:
Families in Other Places

This unit will focus on:
• How geography affects the way families live in other places
• How families are alike and different

By the end of the unit students will know:
• That the way families live is shaped by the environment

At the end of the unit, students will be able to:
• Understand and use maps and globes to identify major bodies of water and continental landmasses
• Understand how questions are used to find out information
• Engage in discussions to learn about how families live around the world
• Use texts and visuals to identify the main ideas or key details to study family life
• Use a graphic organizer to describe how different people live

Core Vocabulary for this Unit:
ceremony region
cultural tradition shelter
dance ship
fable trade
folktale travel

Washington State Grade Level Expectations (GLEs):
3.1.1 5.2.2
3.2.1 5.3.1
5.2.1 5.4.1